

additional area of 4000 ha. over and above the 2000 ha. plantation project now under implementation.

(c) The proposals are reportedly submitted by the State Government on 22-6-78 but those have not yet been received by the Central Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Sugar Policy for 1978-79

2012. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated the sugar policy for 1978-79;

(b) if so, what are the guidelines; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The Government's Sugar Policy for the year 1978-79 is being formulated.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As crushing has been extended in an unprecedented manner this year, an idea of the working results regarding season's recovery duration, and production could be formed, and the implications of the level of production assessed only now.

Zonal Crop Pattern on the Basis of Climatic Condition

2013. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether foodgrains prices during the last three years have not been remunerative to the farmers for their

survival and consequently the agriculturists switched over from foodgrains to sugarcane crop; if so, the reaction of the Government;

(b) Is there any proposal before the Government to prescribe zonal crop patterns on the basis of climatic conditions throughout the country;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) will the Government allow the agriculturists to continue to suffer on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) to (d). The crop acreage figures for foodgrains and sugarcane for the last four years are characterised by fluctuations and it is difficult to say if there is diversion of area from foodgrains to sugarcane. As regards prices, it is an important objective of Government policy that the producers of foodgrains (as also other agricultural commodities) get remunerative prices. To achieve this objective, Government has been fixing procurement/support prices for major foodgrains in the light of recommendations made by the Agricultural Prices Commission and in consultation with State Govts. It has also been undertaking support purchases at the announced prices so as to ensure that market prices did not fall below the procurement/support level. In 1977, Government removed all zonal restrictions on the movement of foodgrains, which has enabled the farmers to realise higher prices for their marketable surpluses. The sales of foodgrains by farmers at procurement/support prices to the public agencies are by and large voluntary. Moreover, the farmers sell a sizable proportion of their marketable surplus of foodgrains at market prices which are generally higher than the procurement/support prices fixed by Government. There is no evidence to suggest that the prices received by foodgrains producers during the last three years have not been remunerative.